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Contact: Kim Hunter Reed

REGENTS/BESE SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MATH AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Louisiana is applying for federal partnership funds designed to improve student achievement through greater linkages between preK-12 teachers and college faculty in the areas of science and mathematics. The funding would advance the goals of the Blue Ribbon Commission and the state's School and District Accountability Plan.

"We have completed our letter of intent and are working to design our full proposal. It is our belief that these federal funds would support the collaborative work that is well underway in our state through our preK-16 partnerships. Funds like these help to institutionalize the reform efforts that are beginning to take root and yield such positive results in student achievement in Louisiana," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

"We support every effort to raise the level of teachers' math and science knowledge and teaching methods," State Superintendent of Education Cecil J. Picard said. "It's an area that is essential, not only to students, but to the future of Louisiana's economy as well."

In Before It's Too Late: A Report to the Nation (2000), the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching sounded a call for attention to these issues. The publication states that America's students must raise their performance in mathematics and science if they are to succeed in today's world and if the United States is to stay competitive in an integrated global economy.

The National Science Foundation seeks to address these problems by enhancing student achievement and reducing the achievement gaps among student populations through 25-30 comprehensive awards of up to \$7 million per year and 60 targeted awards ranging from \$100,000 - \$1.5 million per year.

(more)

ADD ONE
REGENTS/BESE SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS

Specifically, the grant includes four goals:

1. To enhance the capacity of schools to provide a challenging curriculum for every student and to encourage more students to participate and succeed in advanced mathematics and science courses.
2. To increase and sustain the number, quality and diversity of preK-12 teachers of mathematics and science, especially in the underserved areas.
3. To contribute to the national capacity to engage in large-scale education reform through participation in a network of researchers and practitioners.
4. To engage the learning community in the National Science Foundation Centers for Learning and Teaching and Science of Learning Centers.

Louisiana's full proposal is due by April 30 for review and consideration. No date has been set by the National Science Foundation for notification of the awards.